

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 991

By Tindell

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Robert Earl Black upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Robert "Bob" Earl Black, who has devoted more than forty-three years to the education and instruction of high school students and athletes; on March 15, 2008, Mr. Black will be inducted into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Hall of Fame, a most befitting recognition of his outstanding service to Tennessee high school athletics; and

WHEREAS, Bob Black has excelled in sports since his days as a student at Fulton High School in Knoxville, where he played football, basketball, and baseball on the school's teams before graduating in 1960; and

WHEREAS, continuing his football career at Carson-Newman College as a center and linebacker, Mr. Black earned recognition as a Little All-American in addition to being named All-Conference and All-Area Team; and

WHEREAS, Bob Black soon returned to his high school alma mater in 1965 to teach and coach football; since that time, he has led the Fulton High School Falcons to state titles in 2003, 2004, and 2006; he also admirably served the school and its students as Athletic Director from 1976 to 2007; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his involvement with football, Mr. Black has also served the sporting world as a baseball umpire, officiating TSSAA games for thirty-eight years and collegiate Southeastern Conference and Atlantic Coast Conference games for twenty years. He

has further contributed his leadership talents to TSSAA's umpire camps and clinics as Director and Clinician for fifteen years; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Bob Black has performed his duties with such éclat that he has earned innumerable accolades, including the 1999 Amateur Award from the East Tennessee Chapter of the National Football Foundation, the 1999 Boys and Girls Clubs Administrator of the Year Award, the 2000-2001 TSSAA Athletic Director of the Year Award, and the 2005 Fulton High School Teacher of the Year Award; he has been recognized further through his induction into the Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame and the Carson-Newman College Sports Hall of Fame and his naming to the Carson-Newman College All-Century football team; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his outstanding service to his community at Fulton High School, Mr. Black has also contributed his time and talents to Young Life; and

WHEREAS, Bob Black is an active and devout member of Washington Pike Methodist Church, which he has served faithfully for many years as a children's sermon and senior adult Sunday school teacher; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Black is perhaps most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of more than forty years, Brenda Thornton; his four children, Rob, DeAngela, Kristy, and Kelle; and his twelve grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, for his many accomplishments both on and off the field, his impeccable moral standards, and impressive work ethic, Mr. Bob Black has been selected for induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Bob Black is a man of true character and commitment, and he exemplifies the type of selfless community servant and civic leader whom fellow Tennesseans admire for their tireless efforts in molding the State's youth and guiding them with solid principles and high standards, whether on the athletic field or in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join the family, friends, and colleagues of Mr. Robert "Bob" Earl Black in congratulating him upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic

Association Hall of Fame, and honor and commend him for his substantial legacy as a teacher, coach, administrator, and official, even as we offer our thanks for the profound dedication that he has shown our State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.